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Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (TITO, JOSIP BROZ), ASEC, YO, US

SUBJECT: TITO VISIT - SECURITY QUESTIONS

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST ON FEBRUARY 15 AND ON A/SY DIRECTOR DIKEOS ON FEBRUARY 14 TO PRESS STRONGLY GOY CONCERNS ON SECURITY FOR THE TITO VISIT. BESIDES PHYSICAL SECURITY, HE EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE DEMONSTRATIONS DURING THE VISIT. HE ALSO REITERATED HIS REQUEST FOR THE SENIOR INTERIOR SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL TRAVELING WITH TITO TO MEET WITH HIS COUNTERPART IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. EARLIER THE DEPARTMENT CALLED A MEETING OF ALL AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH SECURITY MATTERS TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED
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FOR HEIGHTENED VIGILANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. BELOVSKI MADE VIRTUALLY THE SAME POINTS IN BOTH CALLS:

-- ON PHYSICAL SECURITY, THE YUGOSLAVS ARE SATISFIED THAT THE US AUTHORITIES ARE DOING AND WILL

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DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSURE TITO'S SAFETY.

-- MORE DIFFICULT, HOWEVER, IS THE QUESTION
OF POSSIBLE DEMONSTRATIONS. THE GOY "COULD NOT
ACCEPT" ANY DEMONSTRATION.

-- THE QUALITY OF RELATIONS IS REFLECTED BY
THE QUALITY OF TITO'S WELCOME; HE WAS GREETED WITH
UNPRECEDENTED WARMTH IN MOSCOW, PYONGYANG AND PEKING,
A TRIBUTE BOTH TO HIM PERSONALLY AND TO THE YUGOSLAV
PEOPLE; NEITHER THE LEADERSHIP NOR THE PEOPLE WOULD
UNDERSTAND DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE US.

-- SUCH ACTIVITY IS NOT IN THE US INTEREST
AND DOES NOT ACCORD WITH THE PRESENT REMARKABLE
WARMTH IN OUR RELATIONS;

-- THE FOCUS SHOULD BE ON THE SUBTANCE OF
THE VISIT; IT SHOULD NOT BE UNDERMINED BY ANY
UNTOWARD EVENT WHICH WOULD LEAVE A BAD TASTE; IT
IS ESSENTIAL TO ELIMINATE THE NOTION THAT THE U.S.
FOLLOWS A TWO-TRACK POLICY.

-- FRANCE, WEST GERMANY AND SWEDEN HAVE LARGE
EMIGRE COMMUNITIES AND SIMILAR CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES,
BUT "THEY COOPERATED" WHEN TITO VISITED.
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-- HE (BELOVSKI) ARGUED IN BELGRADE TO LIMIT
THE VISIT TO WASHINGTON ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE US
COULD CONTROL SECURITY BETTER THERE THAN ELSEWHERE.

-- THIS MATTER MUST BE TAKEN TO THE HIGHEST
LEVEL; THE GOY WANTS A USG QUARANTEE NOT TO PERMIT
ANY DEMONSTRATIONS.

3. VEST AND DIKEOS BOTH STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE VISIT AND ASSURED BELOVSKI THAT WE DO NOT
WANT ITS SUCCESS MARRED BY ANY UNPLEASANTNESS OF
ANY KIND. THEY SAID THAT WE TAKE YUGOSLAV CONCERNS
WITH THE GREATEST SERIOUSNESS AND WOULD DISCUSS
THIS MATTER AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS IN THE DEPARTMENT,
WITH OTHER AGENCIES, AND WITH THE WHITE HOUSE. VEST
SAID THAT WE HOPE TO DO EVEN BETTER THAN FOR TITO
IN 1971, BETTER THAN FOR KARDELJ LAST FALL, AND
BETTER THAN FOR ANY OTHER VISITOR.

4. VEST ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT WE COULD NOT
CATEGORICALLY PROMISE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO

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DEMONSTRATION OF ANY KIND. BESIDES THE OBVIOUS

PROBLEMS OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE EXERCISE OF OUR CITIZENS' CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, WHICH HAVE LONG HISTORICAL ROOTS, THERE IS THE PR PROBLEM. IF THE GOVERNMENT WERE SOMEHOW SUCCESSFULLY TO IMPOSE ARBITRARY RESTRICTIONS, IT WOULD CAUSE AN OUTCRY IN THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESS WHICH WOULD REFLECT BADLY ON TITO AND UNDERMINE THE SUCCESS OF THE VISIT. NEVERTHELESS WE WILL WATCH THE SITUATION CAREFULLY AND DO ALL THAT WE POSSIBLY CAN.

5. BELOVSKI NOTED THAT AT HIS AGE TITO COULD BECOME DEEPLY IRRITATED, AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO HOSTILE
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ACT AGAINST HIM IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. THUS FAR HE HAS NOT BEEN TOLD, SAID BELOVSKI, BUT HE WILL HAVE TO BE AND ONE CANNOT PREDICT HIS REACTION.

6. ON A RELATED SUBJECT, BELOVSKI REITERATED HIS REQUEST THAT THE DEPUTY INTERIOR SECRETARY MEET WITH HIS COUNTERPART IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, AND VEST SAID HE WAS WRITING TO JUSTICE TO PROPOSE SUCH A MEETING.

7. FYI. THE DEPARTMENT LEARNED SEVERAL DAYS AGO THAT TWO PEOPLE REPRESENTING THE SERBIAN COMMUNITY IN WASHINGTON HAD REQUESTED AND RECEIVED PERMISSION TO DEMONSTRATE IN FRONT OF THE WHITE HOUSE ON MARCH 6, 7 AND 8 FROM 10 A.M. TO 8 P.M. THE PERMIT WAS FOR UP TO 200 PEOPLE. EUR/EE DIRECTOR ANDREWS CALLED A MEETING ON FEBRUARY 9 WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL AGENCIES HAVING ANY SECURITY RESPONSIBILITY. A PARK POLICE REPRESENTATIVE CONFIRMED THAT A PERMIT HAD BEEN REQUESTED AND GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL PROCEDURES BUT WITHOUT CLEARANCE AMONG INTERESTED AGENCIES. HE SAID THAT A DENIAL WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION IN ANY CASE. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO MAKE A COURT CASE ON SPECIFIC GROUNDS AND THE CHANCES OF SU S, BASED ON PAST PRACTICE, WOULD BE SLIM. HE ADDED THAT THE 500 FOOT RULE WOULD APPLY, PREVENTING ANY CLOSE APPROACH, AND NOTED THAT A SIMILAR GROUP HAD DEMONSTRATED IN 1971 UNDER THE SAME RULES WITHOUT UNTOWARD INCIDENTS.

8. THE FBI REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT THE APPLICANTS WERE KNOWN TO THE BUREAU AND HAD NO HISTORY OF VIOLENT ACTIVITY. HE SAID A GREATER CONCERN WOULD
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BE PEOPLE COMING FROM OUT OF TOWN TO SWELL THE RANKS. IN THIS CONNECTION THE BUREAU HAD NOTIFIED ITS FIELD OFFICE TO REPORT ANY KNOWN OR PLANNED

MOVEMENTS BY YUGOSLAV EMIGRES. THUS FAR, HE CONTINUED, THERE HAD BEEN NO REPORTS THAT CROATIANS WERE PLANNING TO DEMONSTRATE, ALTHOUGH THAT SEEMED LIKELY AND WOULD ADD ANOTHER DIMENSION TO THE SECURITY CONCERNS.

9. THE SECRET SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT TITO'S PROTECTION WOULD BE UNPRECEDENTED AND THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE ANYWHERE HE LIKED IN THE CITY WITHOUT ANXIETY.

10. ANDREWS ASKED WHAT WAS BEING DONE TO PROTECT OTHER YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS AND INSTALLATIONS IN THE US. A STATE SY REPRESENTATIVE REPLIED THAT A MESSAGE HAD GONE TO ALL FIELD OFFICES TO ALERT LOCAL POLICE TO THE NEED FOR SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS AT ALL OFFICIAL YUGOSLAV INSTALLATIONS. SIMILAR MESSAGES HAD GONE TO ALL POSTS IN COUNTRIES HAVING LARGE YUGOSLAV EMIGRE COMMUNITIES ALERTING THEM TO REFER VISA INQUIRIES TO THE DEPARTMENT AND TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST POSSIBLE TERRORIST ACTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE VISIT.

11. ANDREWS CONCLUDED BY REITERATING THE DANGERS AND THE NECESSITY FOR UTMOST PRECAUTION AND ASKED THAT ALL OF THOSE CONCERNED WITH SECURITY MATTERS KEEP EACH OTHER FULLY INFORMED. VANCE

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